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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Poland and Hungary Will Renew Alliance

Polish party boss Gomulka and Premier Cyrankiewicz will lead a party-government delegation to Budapest on 15 May to sign a new treaty of friendship and mutual alliance, according to a Warsaw radio announcement.

A new draft of the twenty year treaty, originally signed on 18 June 1948, has been under preparation in Budapest since the beginning of this year. It was reportedly ready for signature in April, but Gomulka's domestic problems apparently delayed the formal signing ceremony.

This completes Poland's round of new or renewed alliance treaties with all its Warsaw Pact allies except Rumania, which has yet to renew any of its alliances. There are conflicting reports concerning the status of preparatory work on Rumania's alliance renewals. One other outstanding treaty, between Hungary and Bulgaria, is scheduled for renewal this July. There is no evidence of plans or interest among Albania's nominal Warsaw Pact partners in renewing their treaties with Tirana.

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East German-Czechoslovak Relations

East Germany and Czechoslovakia are making cautious attempts to improve bilateral relations following their rift in March when GDR ideologue Kurt Hager criticized the changes in Prague.

In a speech in East Berlin commemorating the 150th anniversary of Karl Marx, the Czechoslovak delegate Josef Spacek "explained" the changes taking place in his country as an effort to make the socialist system more democratic. The East German press also quotes him as saying that "unsocialistic and anti-socialistic tendencies" had accompanied the drive for change, but that the party was now blocking these negative aspects.

East Germany has also increased its news coverage of events in Czechoslovakia which will be well received in Prague. This decision, however, probably stemmed as much from pressure at home as from any desire to placate the Czechoslovaks.

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Hungarian Commentator Says Russians Do Not Provide Leadership

Lajos Korolovszky, foreign editor of Hungarian Television said in late April in a private conversation with an Embassy officer that he like many other Hungarian intellectuals are worried about whether the Czechoslovaks know where to stop.

In this respect, the Hungarian experience in 1956 should be instructive, he said, even though we "like the Czech direction." In contrast, he said "we don't like the monstrous Polish direction and hope it comes to a halt."

"Everybody is...watching the Soviet Union. But the Russians seem too busy making asses out of themselves over four puny young intellectuals. They have no time for the rest of Europe. Where is socialist fraternity now?...Just imagine what Eastern Europe will look like by the time of the Moscow Conference this winter. As for us, I am glad we are preoccupied with our economic reform. Hungary needs it."

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Nationalistic Interview of Czechoslovak Parliamentary Chief

There is no reason why 5 May, the day the Prague uprising against the Nazis started, should not be celebrated as much as 9 May, liberation day by Soviet armies, according to Josef Smrkovsky, chairman of the National Assembly.

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Smrkovsky, who was a leader in the uprising, was interviewed on Prague Radio on 5 May. He said that it is time that the Czechoslovak underground received justly deserved recognition and condemned Stalin, and Beria, as well as Czechoslovak "emigrants" such as the late Vaclav Kopecky, who returned from Russia and persecuted those who fought in Czechoslovakia.

Smrkovsky said that Czechoslovaks would always pay homage to the 140,000 Soviet military men whose graves are in Czechoslovakia, but he added that it was time to pay homage also to the 375,000 Czechoslovaks who were killed fighting throughout the world (he noted that this was more than the number of Americans killed in World War II).

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Tensions Within Polish Economic Society Over Regime Line

The Polish Economic Society (PTE), a nominally non-official academic association of the country's leading economists, is being rent by a tug-of-war between opponents and proponents of the regime's anti-Semitic and anti-Intellectual campaign.

So far, the central board of the PTE has successfully resisted pressure from the Warsaw chapter publicly to support the party line, especially to approve recent purges of several leading economists. The central board has called for a "thorough analysis" of all problems underlying the current turmoil, "including those in the economic sphere."

This is another small indication that economic policy issues may also be lurking behind the party struggle, with conservative and reformist economists battling it out behind the smokescreen of the party's anti-Semitic campaign.

The controversy within the PTE appears symptomatic of developments within other spheres of Polish intellectual life, where the energy of the academic and scientific elite is being sapped by increasing factional divisions.

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Yugoslav Vice Premier to Visit Czechoslovakia

Vice Premier Kiro Gligorov, the chief of Yugoslavia's economic reform, will visit Czechoslovakia during the last half of May. Gligorov undoubtedly will discuss the two nations

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reform programs and may push for increased Yugoslav-Czechoslovak economic cooperation. At one time Tito reportedly assured the late Rumanian leader, Gheorghiu-Dej, that Yugoslavia would provide rail transit and port facilities to Rumania in case of Soviet economic pressure. Gligorov may give a similar promise to Prague. [REDACTED]

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Mnacko Regains Czechoslovak Citizenship

Ladislav Mnacko, the outspoken Slovak author who left his homeland in protest against Czechoslovakia's anti-Israeli policy after the June 1967 Middle East war apparently has regained his citizenship. Mnacko, who is in the process of publishing his novel about Novotny, called "The Taste of Power," is reported to have said from Haifa that he was delighted with the restoration but that he would not return to Czechoslovakia until it has resumed diplomatic relations with Israel. [REDACTED]

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Polish President Visits Iran

Poland's recently appointed head of state, former Defense Minister Marian Spychalski and his wife left for an official visit to Iran on 8 May. The visit is in return for the Shah's official trip to Poland in September 1966. In making the visit, Spychalski is assuming on schedule the obligation of his predecessor in office, Edward Ochab, who resigned on 8 April. [REDACTED]

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